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Guthrie Cooper
For Team I

The circumstances surrounding Lee Harvey Oswald's defection to the Soviet Union suggest he might have received help in planning and effecting it.

On September 17th he booked passage on a freighter, the "Marion Lykes," to LeHavre, France through Travel Consultants, Inc. in New Orleans. (1) The "Marion Lykes" was scheduled to sail the following day, the 18th, but actually left on the 20th. (2) Oswald ^{dis}embarked at Le Havre on October 8th, then went to Southampton, England on the 9th, and on the 10th traveled to London. (3) (fn)

He must have traveled to Helsinki also on October 10th since his passport was stamped as entering Finland on that date and the Tornio Hotel in Helsinki has him registered on the 10th. (4) The inconsistency of this point was that the only direct flight from London that day was Finn Air, Flight 852, which landed in Helsinki at 11:33 PM, yet Oswald was able to clear customs and travel downtown to Tornio Hotel before 12:00 PM. (5) (fn) In a memo to J. Lee Rankin, Richard Helms states that normally this was not possible. (6) (fn) "If Oswald had taken this flight, he could not normally have cleared customs and landing formalities and reached the Tornio Hotel downtown by 2400 (midnight) on the same day. (7) (fn) Helms stated that the agency would attempt "to determine if Oswald could have taken a more circuitous flight from London..." (8) (fn)

There is no follow up to this particular point in the Warren Commission and it is not mentioned in the Coleman-Slawson Memo. *Anything in file?* CIA

Oswald's choice of applying for his Russian visa in Helsinki also indicates he might have received guidance. John McVickar, former Consular Officer in Moscow, wrote in a memo to the Special Assistant to Legal Adviser, State Department, that "Helsinki is a usual and relatively

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uncomplicated point of entry to the Soviet Union (one that the Soviets might well choose if arranging the passage themselves)." (fn) It certainly was expeditious for Oswald, since he probably didn't apply for his visa until October 12th (the 11th was a Sunday), and it was granted the 14th. (fn) In most cases during 1959 it took between one and two weeks for an American tourist to obtain a visa in Helsinki, although this varied frequently. (fn)

The only person we know Oswald spoke to about planning his trip was Lewis Hopkins, the person who handled Oswald's case at Travel Consultants, Inc., (fn) When Oswald came to Travel Consultants, Inc. he asked for the cheapest and earliest passage to Europe. (fn) To Hopkins' knowledge, he was not referred to the agency by anyone. (fn) We asked him to explain the allegation that he told Oswald he would accept a personal check from Clay Shaw or William Gaudet for his fare. (fn) However, he said this was not an accurate statement, that he was trying to explain (to Oswald) that he would not take a check from anyone he did not know personally. (fn) Hopkins knew Shaw and Gaudet socially and professionally. Shaw was the manager of the International Trade Mart and rented offices to Hopkins and Gaudet. They used Hopkins' agency for travel arrangements, and occasionally Hopkins had coffee with them. (fn) A man named Von Brien was a partner of Clay Shaw's and also Hopkins' landlord. According to Hopkins, Von Brien introduced him to Shaw because Shaw would be a good business contact for Hopkins. (fn) Hopkins was not aware, though, that either man had CIA Connection before Assassination critics made the allegation. (fn) In any case, Hopkins determined that Oswald must have paid in cash because there was no record of a check. (fn)

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*Arthur Cooper
 for Team II*

Files and index references on Lewis Hopkins were requested from the FBI, CIA, and DOD in an effort to trace any possible link that might establish a reason for him to have helped Oswald defect. Only the FBI reported having any record of Lewis Hopkins. He was mentioned in files of two individuals; Joseph Clarence Mouldous, (23) and Arthur Wright. (24) Both Wright and Mouldous were suspected of "subversive activities." (25) Additionally, Wright was the owner of Port Travel Service where Mouldous and Hopkins were employed during the 50's. Wright's file states that he was in business with a Communist Party member and hires other communists (26) implying that Hopkins was a communist.

When ~~we~~ ^{The Comm.} recontacted Hopkins on October 25, 1978, ^{he was} we asked him (27) about this statement. ^{He} His response ^{was} that he was not a communist. (fn) By way of explanation, he ^{SAID} told us that Wright did hire a man named Richard "Dick" Feise (also mentioned in FBI Report #100-372529-9), who had been called before Eastland's Committee on Un-American Activities and had been outspoken against Jim Crow Laws. (28) Given the time period of the FBI reports (1951-1954) ^{FN} it is understandable how anyone associated with Feise could be labeled a communist.

Oswald did not seem particularly knowledgeable about foreign travel to Hopkins. (29) Hopkins was not aware of Oswald's final destination or he would have suggested waiting for another ship that would sail to a port more convenient to Russia. (30) New Orleans had frequent ships leaving for Europe in 1959. (31) It seems unusual that Oswald insisted on the first ship out of New Orleans because had he waited he could have gone directly to England. Hopkins was not able to supply any additional information.

Although much of the information contained in this report was supplied by the person under investigation, there is not enough other concrete evidence to support the theory that Hopkins helped Oswald defect. This does not exclude the possibility that there was another source.

- ✓4 Ibid. p. 167. See also
Hearings, Volume XXV, p. 32, Commission Exhibit 2676.
- ✓5 Hearings, Volume XXVI, p. 32, Commission Exhibit 2677.
- ✓6 Ibid.
- ✓7 Ibid.
- ✓8 Hearings, Volume XXVIII, p. 332, Commission Exhibit 938.
- ✓9 Report of the President's Commission on the Assassination
of President Kennedy (1964), p. 258. See also CE 46.
- ✓10 Ibid. See CE 275.
- ✓11 Hearings, Volume XXVI, p. 29, Commission Exhibit 2673.
- ✓12 NSA Staff Interview of Lewis Hopkins, 12/21/77, p. 1, JFK
Document No. 004733.
- ✓13 Ibid. p. 2.
- ✓14 See Commission's written report on Clay Shaw, 10. See Commission's written report on Clay Shaw.
- ✓15 See NSA Staff Interview of Lewis Hopkins, 12/21/77, p. 1, JFK Doc 004733.
- ✓16 Ibid.
- ✓17 Ibid.
- ✓18 Ibid.
- ✓19 NSA Staff Interview of Lewis Hopkins, 10/21/78, p. 2, JFK
Document No. 012886. A/77 4-64-PT 20
- ✓20 NSA Staff Interview of Lewis Hopkins, 12/21/77, p. 1, JFK
Document No. 004733.
- ✓21 Ibid. See also
Hearings, Volume XXVI, p. 29, Commission Exhibit 2673.
- ✓22 FBI Report, 9/24/54, Security Matter File, Bureau No. 100-37229-9,
p. 3.
- ✓23 FBI Report, 5/2/56, Security Matter File, Bureau No. 100-302433-1,
p. 3.
- ✓24 Ibid. p. 1. See also
FBI Report, 5/2/56, Security Matter File, Bureau No. 100-37229-9,
p. 3.

- ✓1. Hearings Before The President's Commission On The Assassination of President Kennedy (1964), (Hereinafter cited as Hearings), Volume XXVI p. 29, Commission Exhibit 2673. *does not mention the*
- ✓2. Ibid. p. ²¹305, Commission Exhibit 2665. *"MARION LYKES"*
- ✓3. Hearings, Volume XVIII, p. 162, Commission Exhibit 946.
- ✓4. Ibid, p. 162, See also Hearings, Volume XXVI, p. 32, Commission Exhibit 2676.
- ✓5. Hearings, Volume XXVI, p. 32, Commission Exhibit 2677.
- ✓6. Ibid.
- ✓7. Ibid
- ✓8. Ibid
- ✓9. Hearings, Volume XVIII, p. 332, Commission Exhibit 958.
- ✓10. Report of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy (1964), p. 258. *SEE ALSO CE 946, PP 7+9.*
- ✓11. Ibid. *SEE CE 2769*
- ✓12. Hearings, Volume XXVI, p. 29, Commission Exhibit 2673.
- ✓13. HSCA Staff Interview of Lewis Hopkins, 12/21/77, p. 1, JFK Document No. 004733.
- ✓14. Ibid, p.2.
- ✓15. *See Committee write up on Clay Shaw* 16. *See Committee Write up on Wm Gaudet*
- ✓17. *HSCA staff Interview of Lewis Hopkins, 12/21/77, p. 1, JFK Doc #004733*
- ✓18. Ibid.
- 18a. *Ibid.*
- 18b. *Ibid.*
19. Ibid.
- ✓20. HSCA Staff Interview of Lewis Hopkins, 10/25/78, p. 2, JFK Document No. 012886. NOT LOCATED
- ✓21. HSCA Staff Interview of Lewis Hopkins, 12/21/77, P. 2. JFK Document No. 004733.
- ✓22. Ibid, See Also Hearings, Volume XXVI, p. 29, Commission Exhibit 2673.
23. FBI Report , 9/24/51, Security Matter File, Bureau No. 100-372529-9, p. 3.
24. FBI Report, 6/2/54, Security Matter File, Bureau No. 100-402435-1, p. 3.
25. Ibid, p.1, See Also FBI Report, 6/2/54, Security Matter File, Bureau No. 100-372529-9, p. 3.

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26 ~~24~~. Ibid, p.1. *← CAN'T LOCATE*

27 ~~25~~. HSCA Staff Interview of Lewis Hopkins, 10/25/78, p.1, JFK Document No. 012886.

28 ~~26~~. Ibid.

29 ~~27~~. Ibid, p.2.

30 ~~28~~. Ibid.

31 ~~29~~. Ibid.

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